

Message Text

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S E C R E T STATE 012084

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS:PFOR ECON NATO

SUBJECT: NATO STUDY OF ECONOMIC ISSUES

1. AT THE MINISTERIAL IN DECEMBER, ALLIED FOREIGN MINISTERS SHARED A COMMON, STRONGLY-FELT CONCERN OVER IMPLICATIONS OF CURRENT ECONOMIC DIFFICULTIES FOR THE COHESION AND SECURITY OF THE ALLIANCE. WE BELIEVE ACTION SHOULD BE TAKEN ON THE BASIS OF THAT CONCERN. A NATO STUDY OF SECURITY-RELATED ECONOMIC ISSUES WOULD NOT ONLY FILL A REAL NEED FOR BETTER COMMON UNDERSTANDING OF THESE CRUCIAL ISSUES, BUT WOULD REINFORCE AND EXTEND THE PRACTICE OF CLOSE CONSULTATION ON MATTERS OF CONCERN TO THE ALLIANCE.

2. YOU SHOULD SEEK AN EARLY OPPORTUNITY TO PROPOSE TO THE NAC THAT THE ALLIES BE PREPARED TO STUDY, ON AN ONGOING BASIS AND AT A HIGH LEVEL, ECONOMIC ASPECTS OF ALLIANCE SECURITY. YOU SHOULD FURTHER PROPOSE THAT THEY BEGIN WITH

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A STUDY OF THE RELATIVE IMPACT ON NATO AND THE WARSAW PACT

OF WORLD ECONOMIC TRENDS OF INFLATION, RECESSION, AND HIGH OIL PRICES. AS A CONTRIBUTION TO START THE DISCUSSION PROCESS, WE ARE AIRPOUCHING TO USNATO A PAPER ON THE ABOVE TOPIC (REGISTRY NUMBER 1899657). IN OFFERING THIS PAPER, YOU SHOULD EMPHASIZE THAT IT REPRESENTS AN INITIAL VIEW INTENDED TO SERVE AS A STARTING POINT FOR DEBATE. WE

WOULD HOPE TO ELICIT ACTIVE PARTICIPATION BY ALL THE ALLIES IN WIDE-RANGING DISCUSSION OF THE ISSUES INVOLVED, IN KEEPING WITH THE SENTIMENTS EXPRESSED AT THE MINISTERIAL. BEYOND THAT, WE SHOULD BE ALERT FOR OPPORTUNITIES TO CONSIDER OTHER ASPECTS OF THE ECONOMIC CHALLENGE TO NATO. AT THE SAME TIME, YOU SHOULD EMPHASIZE THAT WE HAVE NO DESIRE TO DUPLICATE IN NATO CONSULTATIONS, ECONOMIC NEGOTIATION AND DECISION-MAKING ACTIVITIES WHICH ARE THE PROVINCE OF OTHER FORA.

3. WE WOULD WELCOME MISSION SUGGESTIONS AS TO HOW THIS STUDY MIGHT BE HANDLED WITHIN THE NATO STRUCTURE. WE BELIEVE ACTIVE INVOLVEMENT BY THE NAC IS ESSENTIAL FOR SUBJECT MATTER WHICH WILL BE TOPIC FOR FUTURE MINISTERIAL DISCUSSIONS. IN ADDITION, WE CAN FORESEE PERMREPS EMPLOYING VARIOUS NAC SUBGROUPS -- SPC, POLADS AND ECONADS -- IN THE EFFORT, AS WELL AS ANTICIPATING IT AS CANDIDATE FOR REINFORCED NAC OR OTHER HIGH-LEVEL TREATMENT. KISSINGER

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